Small tea gardens in Assam

1191. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of small tea gardens in Assam and their production and growth during last five years;

(b) whether Government has any specific planning to increase the growth rate compared to last five years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Small tea gardens are manned by small tea growers. The details for the last five years are as follows:

Year	No. of small tea growers	Area under small tea growers (hectares)	Small growers production (thousand Kgs)
2004	42492	41249	62630
2005	48292	69828	90478
2006	50795	80445	99511
2007	64597	88674	106881
2008**	64597	88674	108000

** Provisional

There has been 52.02% increase in no. of small tea growers, 114.97% in area and 72.44% in production from the year 2004 to 2008.

(b) to (d) The small growers holding up to 4 ha are given assistance by way of subsidy for new planting in hilly areas above 2500 Meter above sea level and in N.E. States.

Status of Doha round of talks on international trade

1192. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Doha round of talks on international trade;

(b) whether Government held talks with US Secretary of State and US Representative in Washington in June, 2009 and conveyed that India feels that the present economic crisis should be a positive message for global trade barriers to be broken down further and global trade to move so as to help economies across the globe; and

(c) if so, whether India was ready for 'give-and-take' on restarting of Doha round of trade talks without being 'frozen in pre-negotiation position'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Doha Round of trade talks at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) which began in 2001, is still underway. Negotiations under this Round are yet to resume formally following the winter break at the WTO in December 2008.

(b) During interactions with various US officials, including the US Secretary of State and the US Trade Representative in June 2009, India emphasised that in the present times of economic crisis, the best way to improve the situation was through greater economic engagement and not by adopting protectionist measures as was being done by some major economies.

(c) India is committed to a rule-based, multilateral trade regime which is fair and equitable and towards this end, an early conclusion of the Doha Round is important; however, the core concerns of the Round, namely, the development concerns of developing countries, have to be addressed.

Steps to boost Country's Exports

1193. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is likely to miss $200 bn export target set for 2009-10 by more than 10 per cent owing to continued demand contraction in overseas market specially in the US and Europe etc. as estimated by the Ministry for the current fiscal;

(b) if so, whether the Associated Chamber of Commerce in its preliminary assessment on 'target versus reality' has stated that the downward revision of export target in 2008-09 to be $175bn and the total export proceed for the current fiscal would not be over $180bn; and

(c) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to boost India's exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) While announcing the Trade Facilitation Measures on 26th February, 2009, the Government fixed an export target of US $ 200 Billion for the year 2009-10.

On account of continuing global financial crisis and economic slowdown of developed economies, the target of US $ 200 Billion is unlikely to be achieved.

(b) The Associated Chamber of Commerce had earlier indicated a minimum US $ 40 billion exports shortfall for the fiscal year 2008-09.

(c) The Government and the RBI are closely monitoring both the domestic and international economic developments. Government has announced measures in the stimulus packages and in the Budget 2009-10, particularly for the exporting sector, to arrest the decline in exports. These measures are given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended ito answers USQ 1176 Part (a) to (c)]